

ALL INFORMATION
CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISE

LA/CATF
INCOMING

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FRP: 1.2.3.4. . .

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: DONOVA, OOPD-D, OOPN-N, OOPS-S, OGITNATAB2, OPCTR/EALA, OPCTR/EWE, PRINT, RF, SOV/SP/W/E, SOV/TW/RPL, FILE, OOO-3, EUR/NCR-2, EUR/RR, LA/CATF-3, ALA/MC/COR-2, ALA/MC/D, ALA/MC/E1, ALA/MC/N-2, ALA/MC/PME-2, ALA/MC/RAE, ALA/PO/LA, C/PCS, CR/L, CRES/EM, EPO/EA, EPO/EUR, EPS/IG, ICS/HC/EU, ICS/HC/LA, NCPM, NIO/EUR, NIO/LA, OGI/GD/ERA, OOE/E1/PS, OOE/SC, PCS/DPG, PPS/AO-2, PPS/SEO-3, (40/W)

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TOR: 2617572 AUG 85

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ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
STU9130
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ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 261232Z AUG 85
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0108
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3281
RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0183
BT
[REDACTED] A L OSLO 04915

E. C. 12356; DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, NO, CR
SUBJ: COSTA RICAN ASYLUM CASE IN NORWAY

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir
() Release Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 2/22/02 Exemption 15d

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir
() Classify as Extend as () Downgrade to Conf.
Date 2/22/02 Declassify on 8/14/02 Reason X6

1. (C) SUMMARY - A COSTA RICAN FAMILY, WHICH ARRIVED IN NORWAY AUGUST 19, HAS OSTENTATIOUSLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEY WILL SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM. THE FIRST SUCH REQUEST NORWAY HAS HAD FROM COSTA RICAN NATIONALS.

WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT EMBASSY SAN JOSE MIGHT SHED ON CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) AS NOTED IN THE PRESS STORY BELOW, THE APPLICANT HAS SAID HIS POLITICAL ASYLUM PETITION WILL BE BASED ON THE DANGER HE FACES BECAUSE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA. THE APPLICANT HAS NOT REVEALED HIS NAME, AND NEITHER THE LOCAL COSTA RICAN HONORARY CONSUL NOR MFA HAVE YET LEARNED HIS IDENTITY. THE APPLICANT HAS NOT YET FILED HIS ASYLUM REQUEST WITH THE JUSTICE MINISTRY AND HAS THREE MONTHS TO DO SO.

THE APPLICANT

HAS MADE A MAJOR PLAY FOR PUBLICITY IN NORWAY ARRIVING IN THE COMPANY OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST, WITH NORWEGIAN JOURNALISTS ALERTED IN ADVANCE ABOUT HIS ARRIVAL. BECAUSE HIS STORY HAS EMPHASIZED THEMES WHICH HIT LOCAL LEFTIST CRITICS OF BOTH THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND BECAUSE THE DRY HAS HIT THE PRESS AT A TIME WHEN NORWAY IS ABOUT TO OPEN A NEW EMBASSY IN COSTA RICA.

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(U) THE FOLLOWING STORY WHICH APPEARED IN "AFTENPOSTEN" AUGUST 21 GIVES A REPRESENTATIVE SUMMARY OF WHAT IS IN ABOUT THE CASE:

N TEXT

YEAR OLD COSTA RICAN NATIONAL ARRIVED IN OSLO MONDAY HER WITH HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN, AGES THREE TO IN THE NEAR FUTURE HE WILL ASK FOR POLITICAL HERE. IF HIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED, HE WILL BE RST COSTA RICAN TO GET POLITICAL ASYLUM IN NORWAY. EMPT IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE COSTA S LIFE AFTER HE CAME ACROSS SENSITIVE INFORMATION CERTAIN ACTIVITIES BY THE CIA AND COSTA RICAN

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AUTHORITIES IN HIS COUNTRY.

FOR THE MOMENT, THE FAMILY IS STAYING WITH SOMEBODY PRIVATELY SOMEWHERE IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF SOUTH-EASTERN NORWAY. LEIDULV DIGERNES, THE ATTORNEY REPRESENTING THE FAMILY, TUESDAY THIS WEEK INFORMED A LOCAL POLICE STATION SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF OSLO THAT THE FAMILY WILL ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. DIGERNES TOLD "AFTENPOSTEN" THAT HIS CLIENT FOR THE TIME BEING DOES NOT WISH TO GO PUBLIC WITH HIS NAME.

"THE COSTA RICAN CLAIMS HE HAS NO PROTECTION IN HIS HOME COUNTRY," THE ATTORNEY SAYS. ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON HIS LIFE, AND IT WAS THIS INCIDENT THAT LED TO HIS WANTING TO ASK FOR ASYLUM IN NORWAY. HE ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES MAKE NO EFFORTS TO PROTECT HIM AND HIS FAMILY, THE ATTORNEY SAYS.

THE COSTA RICAN IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE COME ACROSS INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CONFLICT IN NICARAGUA, ABOUT THE ATTEMPT ON EDEN PASTORA'S LIFE, AND ABOUT AN ATTACK PLANNED AGAINST, AMONG OTHERS, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN COSTA RICA. REPRESENTATIVES OF CIA AND HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS IN COSTA RICA ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE PLANS. MOST OF THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED BY THE AMERICAN TELEVISION PHOTOGRAPHER TONY AVIRGAN AND HIS WIFE, WHO LIVE IN COSTA RICA. TONY AVIRGAN, WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK ON EDEN PASTORA, ACCOMPANIED THE COSTA RICAN FAMILY TO NORWAY, AND IS STILL HERE.

THERE ARE NO VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR COSTA RICAN NATIONALS VISITING NORWAY. THE FAMILY CAME HERE ON THEIR REGULAR PASSPORTS AS TOURISTS, AND AS SUCH CAN STAY HERE FOR THREE MONTHS.

END TEXT.

4. (C) ACTION REQUESTED.

GIVEN THE U.S. ANGLE IN THE CASE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INSIGHTS EMBASSY SAN JOSE MIGHT HAVE. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO LEARN APPLICANT'S IDENTITY AND WILL PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. BROWN
END OF MESSAGE

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